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23 May 1958

MINUTES OF THE CRITICAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE  
MEETING - 22 May 1958

1. The Committee agreed that because of the importance of the intelligence concerned, the critical intelligence reporting system should be put into effect without delay. The system could be implemented using existing communications facilities. It is anticipated that these facilities will be improved as time goes by. The Committee recognizes that there will be defects in the system as a result of the present state of communications facilities and that some difficulties may arise if an Executive Agent for communications has not been appointed by the time the reporting system goes into effect. These objections, however, are regarded as minor when compared to the importance of the intelligence to be reported.

2. The Committee agreed upon the following course of action:

a. The reporting of Special Intelligence items pertaining to the critical intelligence lists will be put into effect as soon as possible. NSA will work toward a tentative target date of 6 June 1958.

b. All of the other agencies will attempt to implement the reporting of critical intelligence within their own reporting systems by 15 June 1958.

c. NSA will use the multiple dissemination of critical intelligence items from the very beginning and all other agencies will be prepared to adopt multiple dissemination of critical intelligence items by 1 July 1958.

3. It was agreed that the word "CRITIC" would be included in all critical intelligence messages and that this would well constitute a collective address.

4. Representatives of NSA and the CIA Office of Communications were asked to develop a brevity code for use in reporting critical intelligence. This study party will be asked to give an interim report at the 19 June 1958 meeting of the Committee.

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5. It was agreed that all agencies would explain the concept of rapid reporting in successive short messages in their instructions to field reporting elements. It may be desirable at a later date to consider further instructions concerning the format of critical intelligence messages.

6. After 1 July 1958, the Committee will consider the problem of getting recommendations from the field concerning the location of communications terminals.

7. It was agreed that the Committee would meet again on 5 June 1958 or earlier if called by the Chairman.

W. A. TIDWELL  
Chairman, CCC

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